

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 26-10-9

(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: Almoney House

MAGI #1650252604

(Assigned 11/80)

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/10/9 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15

F-13

4. Address: 105 South Van Buren Street, Rockville

5. Classification Summary

Category buildingPrevious Survey Recording M-NCPPCOwnership private

Title and Date:

1976 Inventory of
Historical SitesPublic Acquisition N/AStatus occupiedAccessible noFederal State x County x Local Present use private residence

6. Date: 1889.

7. Original Owner: Albert J. Almoney

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This Queen Anne style, two-and-a-half story, six bays by seven bay, house has an irregular plan and faces east. It is a frame house now covered by grey aluminum siding. The east porch has a shed roof supported by five turned posts. There are single and paired windows, generally they are one-over-one double-hung. At the northeast corner of the east and north elevations there is a "Rockville Bay" window. On the south elevation there are two, two story bay windows. The house has a multiplaned roof with a total of six cross gables.

10. Significance: This house is significant as the home of Albert J. Almoney, local journalist and politician, and as a representative of the work of Rockville's master builder Edwin West.

In January 1889, Elijah and Lydia Prettyman gave approximately one-third of an acre to their daughter Miriam, who had married Albert J. Almoney four years earlier. The Almonys immediately contracted with Edwin M. West to build their new house. West was well known in Rockville as an architect/Contractor, and constructed many homes and churches in the area between 1880 and 1909. The architectural feature which became West's trademark -- the two-and-one-half story rectangular projecting bay with mitred and decorated first floor sides -- is included on this handsome Victorian house.

Albert J. Almoney was editor of the Montgomery Advocate and in that capacity played an important role in bringing to Rockville such improvements as the "new" boulevard between Rockville and Washington, the new courthouse, Rockville's water supply and its electric light plant. He was also a prominent Democrat and chief clerk and parliamentarian for the Maryland House of Delegates from 1907-1930.

During the more than 60 years the house remained in the Almoney family, major additions were made to it. It was sold out of the family in 1953 to Luther L. and Janet Terry, who also made a number of changes before selling it in 1968 to the present owners.

11. Researcher and date researched: Mead Karras-10/79

Candy Reed

Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation

15. Acreage: 20,873 Sq. Ft.

Approval

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/10/9
West Montgomery HD
MAGI #1650252604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Almoney house

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 South Van Buren Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jacques and Margaret Gelin

Telephone #: 762-7147

STREET & NUMBER

105 South Van Buren Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3763

Folio #: 264

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

Rockville Historic District Comm.

—FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

(1974)

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-10-9

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Queen Anne style house, two-and-a-half stories, six bays by seven bays has an irregular plan. Built on a quiet side street, near the heart of the city of Rockville, it faces east.

Built on brick foundations, this wooden frame house has grey aluminum siding. Between the first and second stories there is a slightly flared overhand. There is a wooden porch on the east (front) elevation with a shed roof supported by five turned posts. The east (front) door is glass and wooden paneled. There is a screened porch on the south elevation at the south west corner. Windows are irregularly arranged singly and in pairs. In general there are one-over-one double-hung windows flanked by black aluminum louvered shutters. There is a small three part semicircular eyebrow window on the east elevation set into the roof. At the east cross gable there is a sixteen-over-one double-hung window. The two first floor windows on the east elevation are unusually long and reach the porch floor. There is a single light beveled glass fixed window south of the east (front) door. At the northeast corner of the east and north elevations is a Rockville Bay window. On the south elevation there are two, two story bay windows.

The house has a multiplaned roof with six cross gables on the north, south, east and west elevations. The roof line on the south elevation is particularly complex because of the three gables which intersect and connect. All these gables have wooden shingles.

There are five operating fireplaces in the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Edwin M. West

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant as the home of Albert J. Almoney, local journalist and politician, and as a representative of the work of Rockville's master builder Edwin West.

In January 1889, Elijah and Lydia Prettyman gave approximately one-third of an acre to their daughter Miriam,¹ who had married Albert J. Almoney four years earlier. The Almonies immediately contracted with Edwin M. West to build their new house.² West was well known in Rockville as an architect/contractor, and constructed many homes and churches in the area between 1880 and 1909. The architectural feature which became West's trademark -- the two-and-one-half story rectangular projecting bay with mitred and decorated first floor sides -- is included on this handsome Victorian house.

Albert J. Almoney was the son of Jarrett Almoney, who owned and operated the Montgomery House hotel in Rockville. Albert was educated at the Rockville Academy and St. John's College in Annapolis. He was well known and influential throughout the county and state. He was editor of the Montgomery Advocate and in that capacity played an important role in bringing to Rockville such improvements as the new "boulevard" between Rockville and Washington, the new courthouse, the water supply used by Rockville, and its electric light plant. He was also a prominent Democrat, being postmaster of Rockville under President Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897), a delegate to numerous county and state conventions, county chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, and member of the State Central Committee, Secretary of the Maryland Senate, and chief clerk and parliamentarian for the Maryland House of Delegates from 1907-1930.³

Mariam and Albert J. Almoney had three children, Mary B., Andrew, and Lydia. When Miriam died in 1919, the property was inherited by Albert and her two daughters (Andrew died early). Lydia married J. Paul Brunett (who became clerk of the circuit court) and left the Almoney house. Mary never married, living there until after her father's death in 1939 she inherited his interest in the home.⁴

During the more than 60 years the house remained in their hands, the Almoney family made some major changes. (See attached floor plans) An apartment was added on the second floor at the rear, a major addition was made to the southeast corner of the house in 1901 (for Albert Almoney's sister Isobel), and the room-sized porch on the north side was added in the early 1930s. According to Lydia Almoney Brunett, this was the first house in Rockville to have inside water, steam heat, a telephone, and a radio.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

In 1953 Lydia and Mary sold the property to Luther L. and Janet Terry.⁵ Dr. Terry was Surgeon General of the United States under President Kennedy. They raised a large family in the house and sold it only after Dr. Terry accepted a position as vice president of the University of Pennsylvania. The Terrys made a number of changes, some when they first acquired the house and others at intervals over the years. They removed that part of the front porch consisting of pillars and a hipped roof jutting out from the middle over the stairs to which the sidewalk leads, and replaced it with a flat section. On the interior they added closets, paneling, a second floor bath, and remodeled the kitchen.

In 1968 the present owners purchased the house. Mr. Gelin is an attorney with the U.S. Justice Department. The Gelins have installed aluminum siding, screened the large side porch, and added a swimming pool in the back.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., TD 17/30 (1889).
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, January 4, 1889.
3. Portrait and Biographical Record (1898).
4. Montgomery County Will Records, HGC 23/473 (1939).
5. Land Records, Op. Cit., 1755/472 (1953).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Will & Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland
Portrait and Biographical Record - Sixth Congressional District of Maryland,
 (1898)
 Montgomery County Sentinels
 Interview: Lydia Almoney Brunett, October 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20,873 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mead Karras

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

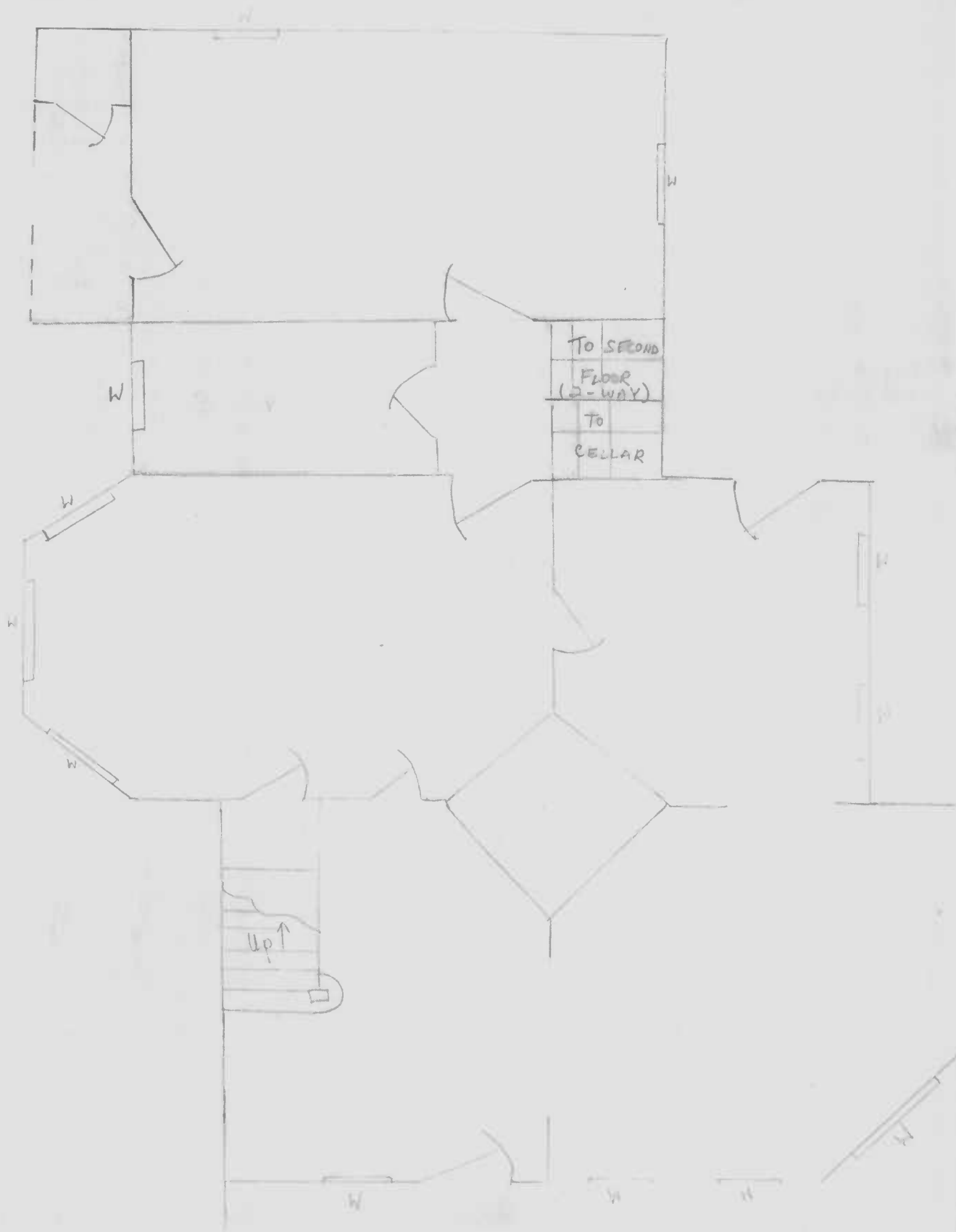
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Almoney House

FIRST FLOOR

North →



↓ (PORCH EXTENSION NOT SHOWN)

Almonee House

SECOND FLOOR

M: 26/10/9
West Montgomery HD

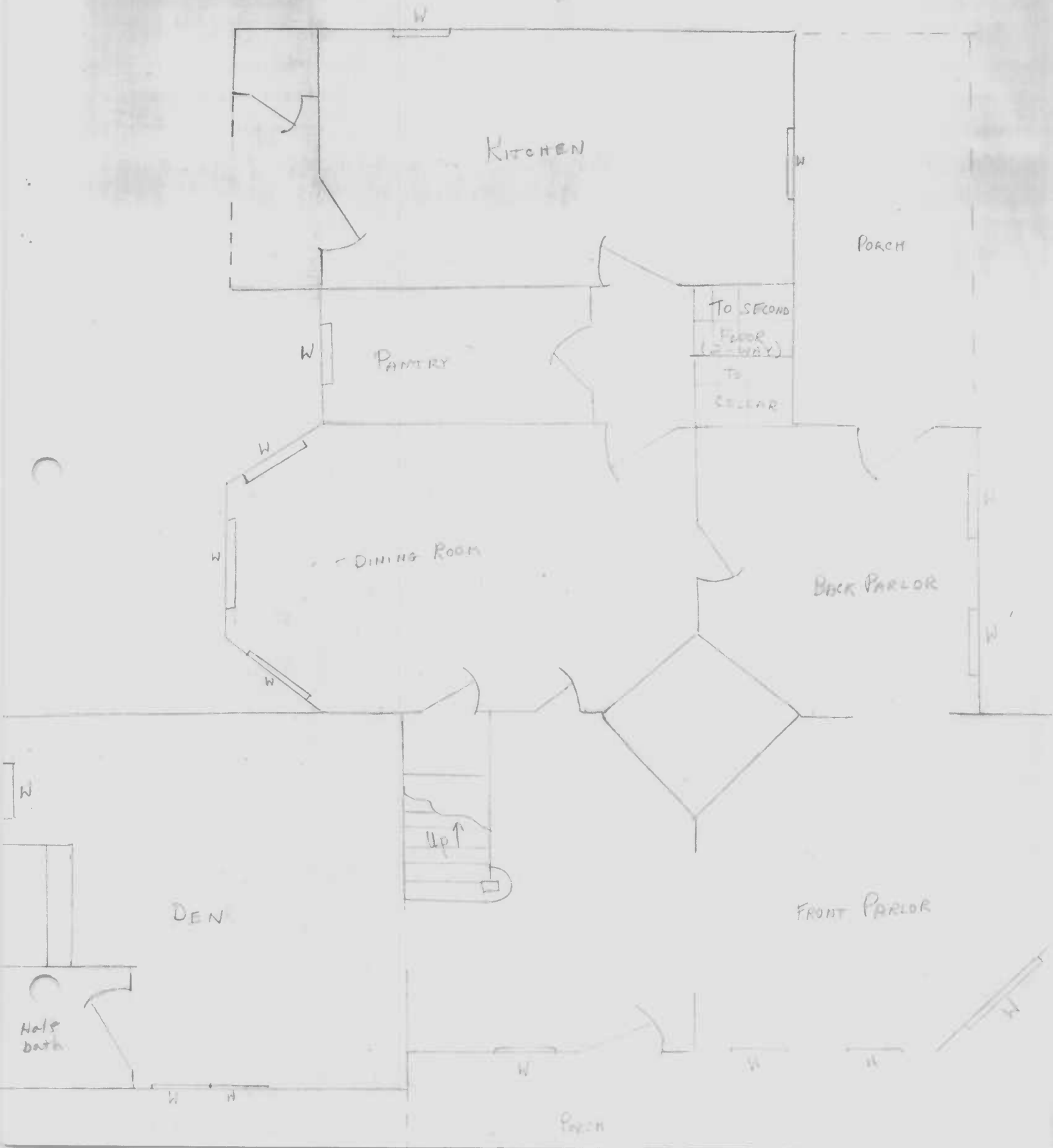
NORTH →



Almoney House

FIRST FLOOR

North →



Almoney House

SECOND FLOOR

M: 26/10/19
West Montgomery HD

NORTH →

M: 26/10/19
West Montgomery H.D.

Attachment Sheet G

Almone House

"Uncle Albert" Sees Storm Ahead in Maryland Assembly



Post Staff Photo.

Veteran Clerk of House Exiled From Session by Illness.

It looks like the special session of the General Assembly of Maryland, which convenes today, is going to be a stormy one.

"Uncle Albert" says so, and for 31 years he has been studying affairs of the General Assembly and telling his friends between law-

ALBERT J. (UNCLE ALBERT) ALMONEY, for 31 years a familiar figure in the Maryland General Assembly, who predicts a stormy session ahead. He is 74.

"Uncle Albert" is Albert J. Almoney, of Rockville, Md., who has served as an official of one or the other of the houses of the Assembly for 31 years. For a quarter of a century he has served as chief clerk and parliamentarian for the House of Delegates.

But this year "Uncle Albert" won't be there to whisper his counsel to the speaker of the House of Delegates when a whisper means so much to the presiding officer.

Parliamentarian on Sick Bed.

He served as secretary of the Senate and reading clerk for several sessions before his appointment as chief clerk of the House. He has been the counselor of every speaker of the House since the day nearly 30 years ago that he became chief clerk.

An expert on parliamentary law, Uncle Albert has often turned and faced the Speaker in the midst of tumult and informed that personage of some rule that would quell the uprising. His "Rap him down. He's out of order," on many occasions has cut short wrangles and debates.

Uncle Albert has not sufficiently recuperated from a recent operation to take his place in the House. He expects to be well enough to be present at the regular session, in spite of his 74 years. He is convalescing at his home in Rockville.

The liquor question is going to arouse much trouble, Uncle Albert thinks, since each county has its own ideas on how to control.

Favors Ritchie's Liquor Plan.

He declares Gov. Ritchie's plan is the best that he has heard.

Comfortably propped on pillows in his bed yesterday he told a Post representative that the present House is a pretty good body of men and one in which he has faith. He believes Republicans will not make trouble in the

Almoney, Albert J.

sion, that they will bow to the necessity of promoting the general good rather than play politics.

One reason there are not more men of great ability in the Legislature is the "paltry" pay they receive, he said.

Uncle Albert says the secret of his success is that he always "kept his mouth shut" and told what he had to say to the Speaker.

Born 1858
+ 74 at the time
1932 POOT
Died 1939 aged 81



Almoney House c. 1910

105 South Van Buren Street

Left to right: Miriam Almoney, her youngest child
Lydia F., and her brother-in-law
Frank Almoney.